Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

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Washington

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

| Mississippi |
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| COUNTY: |

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FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE

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ENTRY DATE (Type all entries - complete applicable sections) T. NAME COMMON House on Ellicott's Hill Connelly's Tavern AND/OR HISTORIC: James Moore House 2. LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER: North Canal Street at Jefferson Street CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 4 Natchez STATE COUNTY: CODE CODE Adams 001 Mississippi 28 3. CLASSIFICATION CATEGORY **ACCESSIBLE** OWNERSHIP STATUS (Check One) TO THE PUBLIC Yes: ☐ Public Public Acquisition: x Occupied District Building X Restricted X Private ☐ In Process ☐ Site Structure Unoccupied Unrestricted Being Considered Both Object Preservation work ☐ No in progress PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) Park Agricultural Government Comments Transportation Commercial ☐ Industrial Private Residence Other (Specify) Military ☐ Educational Religious X Museum Entertainment Scientific OWNER OF PROPERTY OWNER'S NAME: The Natchez Garden Club STREET AND NUMBER: P. 0. Box 537 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE Mississippi Natchez 28 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Office of the Chancery Clerk STREET AND NUMBER: Adams County Courthouse CITY OR TOWN: STATE CODE Mississippi Natchez 28 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE OF SURVEY: ENTRY NUMBER (9 sheets, 2 photos) Historic American Buildings Survey FOR NPS USE DATE OF SURVEY: 1934 County 💢 Federal State ☐ Local DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Division of Prints and Photographs STREET AND NUMBER: ONLY Library of Congress CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

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| 7. | DESCRIPTION | | | | | | | | |
|----|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------|-----------|---------|-----------------|--|
| | | | | | (Chec | ck One) | | | |
| | CONDITION | X Excellent | ☐ Good | ☐ Fair | ☐ Det | eriorated | Ruins | Unexposed | |
| | CONDITION | | (Check Or | те) | | | (Che | ck One) | |
| | | ☐ Alter | red | ▼ Unaltered | _ | | ☐ Moved | 🔀 Original Site | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Part, if not all, of the house dates from 1800 when James Moore, merchant, owned the property. The plan of the Moore house is usually associated with Louisiana; there are no halls and each room opens directly outdoors. There are two stories, the lower, of brick, has very plain interior treatment; the upper, wood-framed and clapboarded, has well-detailed wood mantels, cornices, and door trim. The central room facing the river has a domical recess in the ceiling for hanging a chandelier. (The Waterford crystal example now there is undoubtedly finer than the original.) The surrounding rooms have slightly vaulted ceilings, disguising their low height. The central roofline is a steep gable between the chimneys at each end of the central room; the surrounding roof is of a lower pitch. The steep bluff site faces the Mississippi River. The two-story gallery on the river side is high above Canal Street while the upper story is at grade level at the rear where it is reached by bridges across a dry moat.

Because the south end of the house is at the original lot boundary, there has been speculation that the south rooms were added after the adjacent property came under the same ownership in 1851. The architectural evidence gives meagre support to this theory.

Restored in 1935-36 by architect Richard Koch for the Natchez Garden Club, the restoration primarily involved rebuilding collapsing masonry, removing nonoriginal partitions, repairing carpentry and plasterwork, and restoring the fine wood trim recorded by HABS in 1934.

At the time of the restoration, it was believed that this was Connelly's Tavern, an establishment of importance in the history and legend of Natchez. Subsequent research indicates that this was not the tavern site. It has also been associated with Andrew Ellicott's raising of the American flag at Natchez in February 1797, an event that must have occurred very near, but before the house was erected. In the years between 1816 and 1936, it saw use as a physician's house and office, a part of J. R. Gilreath's school (the site has also been called Gilreath's Hill), and a tenement.

| RIOD (Check One or More as | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Pre-Columbian | ☐ 16th Century | 🔀 18th Century | 20th Century |
| ☐ 15th Century | ☐ 17th Century | 19th Century | |
| PECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicat | ole and Known) ca. | 1800 | |
| REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch | eck One or More as Appropri | ate) | |
| Abor iginal | Education | □ Political | Urban Planning |
| Prehistoric | Engineering | Religion/Phi- | Other (Specify) |
| ☐ Historic | Industry | losophy | |
| Agriculture | ☐ Invention | Science | |
| 🔀 Architecture | Landscape | ☐ Sculpture | |
| ☐ Art | Architecture | Social/Human- | |
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| Communications | Military | Theater | |
| Conservation | Music | Transportation | |
| ATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE | | | |

One of the first structures to be built after the Spanish laid out a new town on the Natchez bluff, this house was built by James Moore who acquired the property in 1797. Although Natchez was a frontier outpost at the time, it was also the first capital of Mississippi Territory after 1798. While Moore's house cannot compare to contemporary work in Philadelphia or Richmond, neither would they compare to London or Paris. The best available craftsmen worked on the house on Ellicott's Hill and favorably influenced the architectural tastes of a vast, developing area.

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

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